

Gc

929.2

E12338w

Gc
929.2
E12338w
1237405

M. L

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

6c

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01209 1879



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018

Elderkin Historical Series: Number One

History of Ancient Windham

GENEALOGY

Parts XC through XCVII

ELDERKIN

Genealogy

Compiled by
William L. Weaver

Republished by
Roland D. Elderkin

1949

Copyright, 1949, by
Roland D. Elderkin

THE COMMERCIAL PRESS - LAKE LAND, FLORIDA

Foreword

William Lawton Weaver was born at Windham, Conn. about 1816. He lived in the part of the town now known as Willimantic. His health was always poor, but he carried on a publishing business, as well as devoting himself to civic and religious interests. The town records of Windham were collated, repaired and copied largely through his efforts.

Mr. Weaver was editor and publisher of the Willimantic Journal from around 1856 until his death in December, 1866. In January, 1862 he began to publish historical sketches of Ancient Windham in his paper. The first of the genealogical series appeared in the issue for October 10, 1862; they were presented alphabetically, and started with the Abbe family. Since we do not have complete files of the old paper, it is impossible to determine the total number of families reviewed from 1862 through 1866. Weaver intended to republish his newspaper articles in book form; indeed, in 1864 he printed a small book of 112 pages containing the Ancient Windham Genealogies, A through Bil. In addition to this small volume, the old editor issued a pamphlet on the Genealogy of the Fenton Family, and a booklet telling the story of the Battle of the Frogs at Windham. These three works are to be seen in the genealogy department at the New York City Public Library. Weaver's notes, correspondence and manuscripts relating to the Windham Genealogy Series are now on file at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford.

The Elderkin Genealogy by Weaver was published in nine issues of the Willimantic Journal beginning Dec. 21, 1865 through Feb. 15, 1866 (Vol. 18, Nos. 51 & 52; Vol. 19, Nos. 1 through 7). The Elderkin articles comprise parts 90 through 97 of the Windham Genealogy Series. The most complete set of the old Journals is in the Connecticut State Library at Hartford; the Library of Congress has some numbers also.

Dyer White Elderkin used the Weaver material almost verbatim in compiling his Elderkin History; this was published in 1888 and is the most complete record of the family. However the account is brief, and the book is now rare. It was quoted recently as selling for \$17.50. This price is beyond the means of the average ancestor hunter. Your present editor believes that the Weaver history is basic to an understanding of subsequent events in all

branches of the family. It is anticipated that further material might also be published in booklet form and sold for a moderate price. This method will enable the members of the various clans to select those items of interest to them, rather than be burdened with a very large and expensive book containing a bewildering collection of information unrelated to individual interests. We have, for instance, a large Canadian clan descended from Joseph Elderkin, grandson of the first John. Aside from births, deaths and marriages, there are many delightful and fascinating stories and legends about us Elderkins; your editor hopes to gather this material together and publish it at a later date. One member of the family has a group of Civil War letters that might be published at some future time. Clan genealogists are invited to correspond with the editor.

The Elderkins have no motto and no coat of arms; if such are necessary for your happiness, the editor suggests a combination of the Windham frog and the legend: 'Always on the Jump'. We are of ancient Anglo Saxon origin; the name means 'old folk' or 'elder relatives'. Therefore he who calls you 'Old man Elderkin' is guilty of a redundancy in the first degree! We come of yeomen or freeholders who are beholden to no man. Except for Col. Jedediah of Revolutionary prominence, the Elderkins have not been famous people. Nevertheless the family represents that class of Anglo-Americans who helped to create a heritage for this continent, and then fought to keep it. Our class eats a hearty breakfast, takes a Saturday night bath, goes to church regularly and votes. We may be inclined toward stolidity, but not stupidity.

Assistance in the publication of the Weaver material was given by the State Library in Hartford and the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Mass. Miss Marjorie Fuller of Stamford, Conn., and Mr. William Elderkin Huntington of Washington, D. C. made available most of the copies of the old papers which contain the Elderkin story. The articles are republished just as Mr. Weaver wrote them.

R. D. E.

Florida Southern College
Lakeland, Florida
September, 1949

Weaver's Elderkin Genealogy

The Elderkin family of Windham was a prominent and highly respectable one. Though not very early in the town, it is known far and wide as a Windham family and the first comers to Windham, the brothers Jedediah and Joshua, were both men of mark, and in different spheres rendered most important service to the country during the war of the Revolution. Among the descendants of the Windham Elderkins, both in the male and female line, there have been many talented and influential men, especially in the legal profession. The name has disappeared from Windham and we have found much difficulty in gathering what information we have obtained. The record is very incomplete, but as we hope at some future time to prepare a more perfect genealogy, we invite additions and corrections from all interested.

1. JOHN ELDERKIN, the ancestor of the family, — the progenitor of all who bear the name in this country so far as we can ascertain — was born in England about 1612. He came over to New England and is first heard of at Lynn, (Mass.), 1637. In 1641, he was at Dedham, at Reading, Mass., 1646, at Providence, 1648, and at New London, 1651. At all these places we believe he built a corn mill and at New London, a church. In 1663 he removed from New London to Norwich, about four years after the first settlement of the latter, where he built the first mill and church erected in that town. He engaged to build a mill at Haddam, but sold his contract to Peter Blachford. In 1664, he removed to Killingworth, Conn., where he also built a mill on the Manunkatesek river. He had there a £100 estate. He sold his lot there to William Wellman, Feb. 25, 1666, and his corn mill to Thomas Stevens, Oct. 13, 1671. He returned to Norwich, where he died, June 23, 1687, aged 75. His life was a very active and useful one and he was evidently a man of energy and ability. He m. 1st Abigail _____, but her maiden name, where and when he married her and the date of her death are unknown. He m. 2d Elizabeth (Drake) Gaylord, dau. of John Drake and wid. of William Gaylord, of Windsor, March 1, 1660; she d. at Norwich, June 8, 1716 aged 95. Chil. by 1st wife: *Abigail*, b. at Dedham, Sept. 13, 1641; *Hanaah*, date and place of birth not found, m. at Killingworth, Richard Handy or Hendy, (now written Hendee,) and had a son Richard who was an early settler of Windham and the progenitor of the Windham, Ashford, Coventry and Andover Hendees. Another dau. of John Elderkin, by first wife m. Daniel Comstock. Chil. by second wife, recorded in Norwich: *Ann*, b. Jan., 1661; (2) *John*, b. April, 1664; *Bashua*, b. Nov. 1665; *James*, b. March, 1670-71, d. at Windsor, April 26, 1698; (3) *Joseph*, b. Dec. 1672. At the birth of the last child, Mr. Elderkin was about 60 and his wife about 50.

2. JOHN ELDERKIN, 2D, m. 1st Abigail Fowler, probably dau. of William, of Milford, 1685; she d. March, 1713-14; m. 2d wid.

Hannah Coleman, Aug. 16, 1720. The date of death of John, 2d, not found. He bought the mill at Killingworth of the heirs of Thomas Stevens, 1702, and sold it to John Brown, 1704. The chil. of John Elderkin, 2d, by wife Abigail were: *Abigail*, b. April 20, 1698; (4) *John*, b. May 7, 1694; *Benjamin*, b. Sept. 15, 1695, d. April, 1699; (5) *James*, b. Nov. 1699; *Margaret*, b. Nov., 1700; *Jedediah*, b. Nov. 7, 1701-2; *Judith*, b. March 8, 1703-|4|.

3. JOSEPH ELDERKIN, of Norwich, m. Deborah Brockway, July 27, 1703. Chil.: (6) *Joseph*, b. 1706-7; *Benjamin*, b. April 14, 1711; *Elizabeth*, b. Aug. 27, 1717; *Jeptha*, b. May 2, 1719; *Deborah*, b. May, 1721.

4. JOHN ELDERKIN, JR., of Norwich, m. Susannah Baker, Aug. 26, 1714; he d. Feb. 27, 1736-7. Chil.: *Abigail*, b. Sept. 29, 1715; *Jedediah*, b. 1717, settled in Windham; (8) *John*, b. Feb. 3, 1718-19; (9) *Joshua*, b. Oct. 30, 1720, settled in Windham; *Susannah*, b. Aug. 12, 1722.

5. JAMES ELDERKIN, of Norwich, m. Phebe Lee, June 1722.

JAMES ELDERKIN, perhaps the same as above, m. Betty Waterman, Aug. 31, 1744 and had the following chil.: *James*, b. Dec. 11, 1745; *Betty*, b. Feb. 28, 1747-8; *Rodolphus*, b. Oct. 4, 1750; *Louisa*, b. Dec. 22, 1752, d. March 29, 1753; *Louisa*, 2d b. March 3, 1754; *Cynthia*, b. March 3, 1757; *Hadesh* b. Dec. 14, 1758; *Ahira*, b. June 19, 1761; *Alemeth*, a son b. Aug. 23, 1763; *Amanda*, b. Sept. 10, 1765.

6. JOSEPH ELDERKIN, of Norwich, m. Mary Story, April 28, 1731. Chil.: *Rachel*, b. March 6, 1732; *Mary*, b. Dec. 9, 1736; *James* and *Elizabeth*, twins, b. Oct. 19, 1739; *John* b. April 23, 1745; *Jemima*, b. July 23, 1747; *Jeptha*, b. May 19, 1750; *Joseph*, b. Sept. 15, 1753; *Frederick*, b. Dec. 25, 1756; *Rominer?* b. Sept. 20, 1759.

(JOHN ELDERKIN, 2d, is not so called in the records, but simply John Elderkin. We add the 2d to distinguish him from his son who is called John Elderkin, Jr. One of our authorities calls Jedediah the son of the 2d John; but from several circumstances, and from the arrangement of the records, we are satisfied that John Jr., was the 3d John, and father of Jedediah and Joshua.)

4. COL. JEDEDIAH ELDERKIN, was, as we have seen, the son of John Elderkin, Jr., being of the 4th generation from John Elderkin the first settler in this country. He was born at Norwich, in 1717, but our copy of the record does not give the month and day. He was married in Norwich where his first child was born. He is first mentioned in Windham records in December 1744, and before September, 1745 he had removed from Norwich and settled in the town. His first purchase was of Gideon Bingham who sold him two tracts of land one on the east side of the town street, down town, and the other west of Shetucket river, Dec. 1744. No mention is made of a house on either tract but we presume from the price paid, £600, that there was a dwelling on the town street lot. Col. Elder-

kin, if he lived in that part of the town at first, as seems probable, afterwards removed uptown and owned and lived and died in the house now owned and occupied by Wm. Swift, Esq. Col. Elderkin, we presume, was in the practice of the law before he settled in Windham. He evidently stood high as an advocate for his practice rapidly increased until it was quite extensive. Windham, when Col. Elderkin settled in the town, had been the county seat for some twenty years and was then a place of considerable local importance. Col. Elderkin and Col. Dyer were unquestionably the leading lawyers in eastern Connecticut and their fame was not confined to their own section. Col. Elderkin was about four years the senior of Col. Dyer. During the Revolution in which both bore an honorable part, their views fully coincided and they acted on the important questions involved in that struggle in perfect harmony. They were next door neighbors and we presume were personal friends. At any rate, we have never heard that there was anything more than honorable professional rivalry between them. We have understood they often traveled together while journeying to fulfill engagements or attend to their official duties. In 1769 Col. Elderkin with Col. Dyer was appointed agent of the Susquehanna Land Company and they went to Philadelphia to open negotiations for the settlement of the controversy respecting the Wyoming lands.

Col. Elderkin took but little part in town affairs and his name is seldom mentioned in the records until 1767 when he was appointed chairman of an important committee raised to take into consideration the state of the country and to promote industry, economy, manufacturers, &c.; in other words, to consider whether the town would agree to the non-importation scheme started in Boston. The committee was appointed the 7th of December, 1767 and on the 10th of January, 1768, made their report, drawn we presume by Col. Elderkin, which fully endorsed the scheme and pledged the members and recommended the people of the town not to buy or sell or use in their families a great variety of imported articles which were enumerated. The report was adopted in a very full meeting and is found at length in Windham town records. Col. Elderkin was afterwards occasionally moderator of town meetings and sometimes acted as agent for the town in important matters, but aside from this he was not at all prominent in mere local affairs.

Col. Elderkin was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1756, and continued by annual appointment until 1791 a period of thirty-five years, a length of time almost without parallel. The office in his day was one of honor and importance. Col. Elderkin was first chosen a member of the General Assembly from Windham in the Spring of 1751, and was chosen repeatedly afterwards until 1785, when he was elected for the last time. His name appears as a member in seventeen different years and we find that he attended thirty-five different sessions within that time. He was a member in 1774, 1775, 1776, 1779, 1780, and 1783 some of the most eventful years of the Revolution.

Our account of the services rendered by Col. Elderkin during the Revolution will be very meagre but strictly reliable as it is derived almost wholly from the State records.

At the March session of the General Assembly in 1775, Jedediah Elderkin, Esq., was commissioned Colonel of the 5th regiment of Connecticut militia, and his neighbor, Experience Storrs, Esq., of Mansfield, was appointed Lieut. Colonel. This was an eastern regiment. This appointment gave Mr. Elderkin his military title. It does not appear, however, that he was ever on active duty. His services were more needed in other quarters than in the field. Dec. 9, 1776, it was reported that Col. Elderkin and Lieut. Storrs were not in a condition to march with the 5th regiment, and the command was given to Maj. Brown.

Col. Elderkin was one of the first Committee of Safety, organized in 1775, and was often a member afterwards. Nov. 2, 1775 he was appointed by the Governor and Council of Safety with Major Dawes, of Boston, then of Norwich, to view the harbor of New London and report places suitable to fortify. He visited New London and on the 15th made a lengthy report. It was found impossible to procure an engineer and Major Dawes declined the service. Col. Elderkin therefore repaired to New London alone and examined the localities about the city in company with some of the citizens and after consulting with those best informed gave the result of his observations and inquiries. The report is a clear and definite statement of his views on the importance and feasibility of fortifying the approaches of the harbor and he names the island or point called Mamacock, Winthrop's Point and Groton Hill opposite New London as places important to fortify. He gives a description of these localities with heights and distances and his opinion in regard to how and in what manner they should be fortified with as much particularity as a topographical engineer. He concludes his report as follows:

"I own, I never till lately gave much attention to the business or art of fortifying harbors or building forts, batteries, &c., but the alarming situation and distress in which our country is in and ministerial designs and vengeance aimed at our seacoast, have called my attention to look into matters of that kind; and so far as I can judge, it is of the utmost importance to secure the port and harbor of New London from falling into the hands of our enemies, which will be an asylum for ships, vessels of force, floating batteries, &c., that be by the continent or any particular government built for the protection of our sea coast trade or country, which shall come that way; but on the contrary, if left destitute of protection and fall into the hands of our enemies, it would let them into the bowels of our country, and give them great advantages against us; that the best and only sure and eligible manner of fortifying and securing said port and harbor is, in erecting bat-

teries at the several places and in some manner as before mentioned."

On the 9th of Jan., 1776, Col. Elderkin was appointed to go to Salisbury and procure the casting of cannon for the State, and on the 29th he made a report on the subject. Feb. 2d of the same year he was directed to go again to Salisbury and have cannon balls cast at Smith's Furnace. During most of the year 1776 he was actively employed by the State, in executing various commissions, such as procuring ordnance, purchasing supplies, taking charge of prisoners, &c., besides driving the powder mills at Willimantic, about which more hereafter. He was sent to Boston to inquire for the best model for cannon of 18 lbs or less. In May, 1777, he was directed to procure six men and twelve horses and go to Portsmouth, N. H., and apply to John Langdon, Esq., for six brass field pieces and bring them to this State. The above are only samples of the commissions that he was frequently called upon to execute. If anything was to be done requiring business energy and promptness, Col. Elderkin was the man selected.

When it is recollected that he was at this time a lawyer of extensive practice and a portion of the time States attorney for Windham county, that he was a member of the General Assembly, one of the Governor's Council of Safety, that he was a large landholder and at the same time a manufacturer, it will readily be admitted that he was a man of ability, great activity and executive talent.

Col. Elderkin, was active in the service of the State in various capacities such as procuring ordnance and supplies for the army, and executing different commissions in the early part of the Revolutionary war. The need of powder was as great as ordnance and small arms, and there was at the commencement of the war no powder manufactory in the State. Col. Elderkin, in company with Nathaniel Wales, Jr. made a successful effort to supply this great want. Mr. Wales, like Col. Elderkin, was an ardent patriot, a local Judge, a member of the Governor's Council of Safety and a talented and influential citizen of Windham. He was very active in town affairs, and generally presided at important meetings held during the Revolution. At a special session of the Legislature in December, 1775, it was enacted "that a bounty or premium of £30, should be paid out of the treasury to the person who should erect the *first powder mill* in the colony and manufacture five hundred pounds of good merchantable gun-powder." The same premium was offered in regard to the second. It was enacted that no powder mill should be erected in the Colony without a license from the General Assembly under a penalty of £30. At the same session (Dec. 1775) liberty was given to Jedediah Elderkin and Nathaniel Wales, Jr., to erect a powder mill in Windham, pursuant to the act of Assembly. The place chosen for the site of their mill was at Willimantic, then a

cluster of some half dozen houses with a grist and saw mill. Its location according to tradition was where the old carding factory stood between the old grist mill and paper mill as they were some thirty or forty years ago. The eastern portion of the Linen company's new thread mill now occupies its site. The work of erecting the mill was pushed with vigor and completed early in the spring of 1776. At the May session of the Legislature, 1776, Elderkin & Wales were allowed £30 premium "for one thousand pounds of powder previously manufactured by them." This does not prove that theirs was the first powder mill erected in the State, but we are inclined to think such was the case, though another was built by Colonel Pitkin, in East Hartford about the same time. The earliest mention of any powder manufactured by Elderkin & Wales we find in the record of the doings of the Governor and Council of Safety at their session, April 29, 1776, when liberty is given Adam Babcock, of New Haven to purchase of Elderkin & Wales 200 pounds of powder for his privateer then fitting out. The earliest order we find on Col. Pitkin for powder, was June 28, 1776. Gov. Trumbull in a letter to Congress states that the Willimantic and Hartford powder mills were both in full operation previous to June 4, 1776, and that another one was nearly completed. The Willimantic mill continued to furnish large quantities of powder until Dec. 13, 1777 when it blew up, killing Roswell Moulton, one of the workmen, a young man aged about 22 years. The works were pretty thoroughly destroyed and the mill was never rebuilt so far as we can learn. The powder made here greatly aided the colonies in their struggle, and the New London paper in announcing the destruction of the works, Dec. 19, says: "Amongst other obstacles to impede our success, last Friday, the powder mill at Windham blew up." The difficulties in the way of starting a new manufactory of the kind, at such short notice — of procuring machinery, material and skilled workmen — was very great indeed, and that they were so successfully overcome in such a short period of time we think is due in a great measure to the enterprise and energy of Col. Elderkin. The purchase of the site for the powder mill, included the grain and saw mill near by, which were owned by Col. Elderkin at his death.

Col. Elderkin is deserving honorable mention for his experiments in the manufacture of silk. It is a matter of regret that so little is known in regard to his efforts and success in this then untried branch of industry. But that he made a determined effort in this direction at an early day and achieved a measure of success is certain. It seems that in the early part of the eighteenth century, the English government having failed in their experiments with the silk-worm at home, were very desirous of introducing it into the provinces of Georgia and Carolina, and in order to induce the colonists to engage in the business, all duties were removed and soon after a bounty was offered upon all raw silk imported from the colonies. This led to the formation of a company in Philadelphia, of which Dr. Franklin was the agent in England. At what

date this association was formed and what influence it had in introducing and extending the silk culture or manufacture we are unable to say. The venerable Zalmon Storrs, Esq. of Mansfield Center, now in his 87th year in a note to the writer dated the 18th of December last, says, "I think the production of silk was commenced in this town the first of any place in Connecticut; the seed of the mulberry and the eggs of the worm came from Long Island. Silk was produced here many years previous to the Revolutionary war. Nathaniel Aspenwall, of this town became quite an enthusiast on the subject, planted a large nursery in New Haven and other places; and I remember hearing him say that he took two silk vest patterns to Philadelphia while Congress was in session there and made a present of one to General Washington, and one to Doctor Franklin."

At what time Col. Elderkin commenced his experiments in the culture and manufacture of silk is not known, but it was some time previous to the Revolutionary war. A descendant of Col. Elderkin thinks he was the first introducer of the silk worm into Connecticut, but we are inclined to believe Mr. Storrs is correct and that it was first introduced into Mansfield. It is quite probable, however, that Col. Elderkin, begun his experiments with the mulberry and the worm soon after or about the same time, and from the fact that he had the silk woven in Mansfield it may be that he was connected with those who introduced the business into that town. At any rate, he was one of the pioneers in this important branch of industry and deserves great credit for his enterprise and zeal in the business. We give the following letter written by Col. Elderkin to Clement Biddle, Esq., of Philadelphia, a member of the association above referred to:

WINDHAM, Jan'y 22, 1773.

Sr. I am informed that you are one of those Gentlemen in your Province who are confederated together to carry on the silk Manufact'y and have made great profici'y therein, in prosecution of which I wish you success.

In the meantime would inform you that some years since I began the cultivation of the Mulberry tree, have now a large number fit for improvement; two years past have made considerable quantities of silk; have spun and improved some, but find in that part of the process in spinning from the ball we fail, for want of proper reels and experienced workmen; have been seeking and looking out for help herein. For that purpose got Mr. Eb. Gray when at Philadelphia last fall to inquire and by whom I am informed of your undertaking and proceeding in the laudable branch of making silk, and that one of the young women in your works would be prevailed on to come here for a year and that reels might be had or were made with you of the right kind, with all the apparatus for the spinning of silk from the ball; On which information I deter-

mine early in the spring to send my son to you to procure a hand and a reel and bring home with him.

Desire therefore that you would get me a reel with all its appurtenances and cauldron made as soon as may be as also assist me in procuring the woman to whom Mr. Gray made some proposals in my behalf to come, when I send my son shall send the money for the reel; he will wait upon and assist the woman in getting here. Your assistance in the above matters will help in promoting the purpose of making silk in North America and greatly oblige your unknown Friend and Obed't and hum'l Serv't.

JED. ELDERKIN

P. S. Please on the receipt of this send me a line pr post to be left at N. London and charge the postage of letter.

The mulberry orchard of Col. Elderkin was on what is now called the Wanton Perry farm near the village of South Windham. In his will dated, March 15, 1792, Col. Elderkin speaks of his "mulberry lands near Auwebetuck" and "the appurtenances belonging to my silk manufactory." It seems by this he had a silk factory and there are those living who remember seeing the fabric made at his establishment. The daughters of Col. Elderkin, it is said had handkerchiefs and dresses made from the silk he manufactured. It seems that he carried on the business quite a number of years, but whether he made it profitable we know not. It was not continued after his death. His descendants say his factory where the silk was woven was in Mansfield, but we can learn no particulars in regard to it. On making the inquiry of Mr. Storrs, he says: "These (the vest patterns above referred to.) I suppose were woven in Mansfield by a foreigner named Petit, if I remember right. There was another weaver by the name of Fletcher whom I remember came to this town more than seventy years ago who hired a room and set up weaving ribbons five or six pieces at once. I have not, however, known any silk factory that would be so called, that is for *weaving* silk, though there were no doubt some experiments as those above related, and Col. Elderkin might have been one who did something of the kind on such looms and other domestic machinery as we then had." Col. Elderkin, it is said imported a weaver from England.

COL. ELDERKIN continued in the practice of his profession, which was large, until age and ill-health compelled him to abandon professional business. His last, and in some respects most important public service was as member of the Convention in this State which ratified the United States Constitution. It was quite appropriate that he who had labored so earnestly and faithfully to secure the independence of his country, should be permitted as the crowning act of his life, to vote for a constitution which secured the blessings of liberty and free government to his posterity.

As so few living remember Col. Elderkin, we obtain our impressions of his talents and character mainly from his public life. Judging from that, we feel assured, that he was an ardent and devoted patriot. In our notice of Col. Dyer we alluded to the exalted patriotism of the people of Windham, and need not here repeat what we there said. Col. Elderkin not only fully sympathized with the people of the town but he was one of their most honored and trusted leaders, from the beginning to the close of the Revolutionary struggle. He was confided in and honored by Gov. Trumbull and the General Assembly, during the war as few men were; and for the important services he rendered the country in its hour of greatest need and peril, his name should ever be held in grateful remembrance. Col. Elderkin had practical, business talents. He was active, prompt and persevering. He was a man for an emergency. He was capable of originating new enterprises and carrying them out under the greatest difficulties and discouragements. He knew no such word as fail, and had nothing of the old foggy about him. In enterprise and in his efforts and experiments in manufacturing, he was in advance of his times. His character for probity and integrity was, so far as we can learn, without a stain.

COL. ELDERKIN was quite successful in accumulating property, yet we judge he was a benevolent and liberal minded man. He spent his money freely for the benefit of his family and we presume for worthy public and private purposes. He educated two of his sons at college and prepared another to enter. Col. Elderkin is remembered by a few aged persons as a large, tall, and very fine-looking man, with the manners of an old-fashioned gentleman.

The following obituary notice of him is copied from the Windham *Herald* under the head of deaths, dated March 9, 1793:

In this town on the 3d inst. after a long and painful illness, endured with singular patience, departed this life. JEDEDIAH ELDERKIN, Esq., in the 75th year of his age, who for many years was an eminent and honorable practitioner of law in this State, and by much improvement in several important stations in life, was for many years a very useful member of society. In his death the surviving partner laments the loss of a tender husband — a numerous offspring that of a kind and affectionate parent — and the needy sufferer the loss of a benevolent and charitable friend.

The will of Col. Elderkin is dated March 15, 1792, and proved March 27, 1793. In it he says he has disposed of most of his property by deeds of gift to his children. To his wife Anne he gives the use and improvement of his grist and saw mill during her life, with a horse, carriage, cow and household goods. Also of the house and lands where his son Bela then lived near the mills, his mulberry lands near Auwebetuck with buildings, &c., on that farm, with all the appurtenances belonging to his silk manufactory, in fee simple, said mulberry lands and trees being reserved in his deed of said

farm to David Young. He gives to his grandson Jedediah, son of his son Bela, two-thirds part of estate in grist mill, equal to one fourth part of the whole in fee simple, directing him render to his father all profits of his said share in said mills immediately after the decease of his grandmother and during the life of his father if he lives and stands in need of such supply. To his son Vine he gives his French gun, sword and ornaments of dress, and to Bela his other gun and fowling piece. He gives to Alfred his share in the Proprietor's school lot and house. To Sophia Flint, daughter of his daughter Lora deceased, he gave £20. His wife was named executrix, but, probably on account of age and infirmities, she declined, and his son Alfred was appointed in her stead.

COL. JEDEDIAH ELDERKIN, m. Anne Wood, of Norwich, Aug. 31, 1741; he d. March 3, 1793, aged 74; she d. June 14, 1804, aged 83. We have learned but little of Mrs. Elderkin, but she is remembered by some as an excellent woman, a worthy companion of her honored husband. Unlike him she was small size. Their chil. were: *Judith*, b. in Norwich, March 2, 1743, m. Hon. Jabez Huntington, a prominent citizen of Windham, Sheriff of Windham county, &c., Aug. 6, 1760, had a family and d. Sept. 24, 1786; (10) *Vine*, b. in Windham, Sept. 11, 1745; *Annie*, b. Oct. 30, 1747, m. Dea. Hezekiah Bissell, a lawyer and State's attorney for Windham county, March 18, 1765, and had family: (11) *Bela*, b. Dec. 10, 1751; *Lora* b. Nov. 30, 1753, m. Royal Flint, a merchant, d. before 1792, leaving a dau. Sophia, who, if we are not mistaken, m. Erastus Clark, of Utica, N. Y.; *a son*, b. April 24, 1756, d. May 1, 1756, (12) *Alfred*, b. Jan. 4, 1759, *Amie*, b. March 5, 1761, m. Jabez Clark, Esq., of Windham, April 4, 1787, d. at Utica, N. Y., July 2, 1838, leaving six chil. of whom Elizabeth m. Walter King, of Utica, deceased, Anna, now wid. of the late Rev. Edward Vernon, living in New York, Jerusha, m. Jesse W. Doolittle, of Utica, N. Y., recently deceased, Charlotte, (not Harriet as in the Clark genealogy copied from Goodwin's Notes.) m. Hon. Samuel H. Perkins, of Philadelphia, and Edwards, who m. Hannah Perkins, dau. of the late Rev. Samuel, and resides in Windham; *Charlotte*, b. Oct. 23, 1764, m. Samuel Gray, Esq., July 2, 1788, d. Dec. 13, 1797, aged 33, leaving 3 chil.; Harriet, m. Oliver C. Grosvenor, of Pomfret, Mary, now wid. of the late Samuel Byrne, resides at South Windham and the late Thomas Gray, Esq., for many years town clerk of Windham.

8. JOHN ELDERKIN, we are inclined to think lived at one time in Windham (Scotland Society) or perhaps in Lisbon or Canterbury adjoining. He m. Rebecca Allen, dau. of Timothy, March 2, 1742, chil.: *John* b. Jan. 18, 1742-3, (a John Elderkin graduated at Yale College, 1765, said to be from Windham, and if so, was probably this one); *Susannah*, b. Oct. 7, 1744, probably m. Eleazer Denison, of Windham and had a large family; *Luther*, b. Sept. 6, 1746; *Rebecca*, b. Sept. 17, 1748; *Joshua*, b. Jan. 13, 1750; *Judges*, b. Aug. 23, 1752, d. Aug., 1753; *Vashti*, b. July 19, 1754, m. Elias Bingham,

of Scotland; *Frances*, b. Feb. 11, 1757, d. May 21, 1759; *Roxaleny*, b. Sept. 5, 1759; *Dyarchey*, (probably mistake in copying) b. April 7, 1762; *Fernando*, b. July 9, 1764.

9. Dr. Joshua Elderkin, a younger brother of Col. Jedediah Elderkin as we have seen, was the son of John Elderkin, Jr., and was born at Norwich, Oct. 30, 1720. He graduated at Yale College in 1748, studied theology and was called and ordained pastor of the church and society in Old Haddam, June 1749, as successor to Rev. Aaron Cleveland. He remained there but a few years. Rev. Dr. Field in his History of Haddam and East Haddam says that, "Mr. Elderkin was not well studied in Divinity and that his health was poor, which with low spirits prevented his discharging fully the duties of his office." For these reasons it seems the people became dissatisfied with him, and it was mutually agreed between him and them to submit their difficulties to the South Association of Hartford County, to which Haddam belonged. The result was that Mr. Elderkin was dismissed in 1753, in which year he appears in Windham. Whether he studied medicine before he came to Windham or not we cannot say, but from some circumstances we are inclined to think he studied with Dr. Jonathan Huntington, then a prominent practitioner in Windham. That he practiced medicine in Windham some years is generally believed, and we are assured from descendants that such is the fact. But it seems he had ability to turn his hand to more than one kind of business. Sometime before the Revolutionary war he was engaged in trade, and while in mercantile business an incident occurred in his history which shows the temper of the people of Windham during the agitation that preceeded the war of the Revolution. The people of the town as we have seen in our notice of Col. Dyer, entered heartily into the non-importation scheme, and solemnly pledged themselves in town meeting assembled, not "by land or water to import into this colony, either for sale or for our own family's use" certain enumerated articles. Dr. Joshua Elderkin was one of the committee that drew up the recommendation and made out the list of prohibited articles, Dr. Elderkin was also one of the committee to correspond with other towns, and endeavor to procure a uniformity of action on this important matter. In a short time after it was reported that Dr. Elderkin had imported and sold certain of the prohibited articles, and it evidently created much excitement. A town meeting was called June 27, 1768, and Capt. William Durkee and Mr. Elisha Hurlbut were appointed a committee "to advise Dr. Joshua Elderkin of this meeting, and that they are informed he had imported some of those articles restricted by a former vote of this town, and to desire his attendance to show reason if any he has, or any excuse for his conduct in the above particulars. Said committee repaired to said Dr. Joshua Elderkin and acquainted him with the vote of the town above mentioned, and reported to this meeting that the said Dr. Elderkin utterly refused to attend said meeting and to offer any reasons in his excuse or justification. Where-

upon it is voted by this town to dismiss the said Joshua Elderkin from being one of the corresponding committee, and the said Joshua Elderkin is hereby dismissed therefrom, and that Capt. Joseph Jennings be joined with the said Nathaniel Wales, Jr., and Samuel Gray, Esq., as a corresponding committee." This action did not satisfy the radicals of that day who were in a large majority in the town, and were terribly in earnest. Another town meeting was called to consider the subject, and held September 13, 1768, when the following decided action was had:

"Whereas the inhabitants of this town at their legal meeting held at Windham, Dec. 7, 1767, taking into consideration the distressed circumstances of the inhabitants of this town, together with the inhabitants of this Colony and Country, in a great measure owing to and on account of the surprising fondness the inhabitants of this Country have had and then had for the use and consumption of foreign British manufactures, and being desirous to come into some effectual measures to promote industry, economy, &c., did appoint a number of its inhabitants, one of which was Dr. Joshua Elderkin, a committee to take the aforesaid matters into consideration and make their report thereon to this town at their meeting on the 12th day of January, 1768, which committee at said meeting on said 12th day of January last, made their report to said meeting under their hands that they had taken into consideration the aforesaid matters, and were of opinion and did advise that frugality and industry, with a fixed attention and application to American manufactures, together with a total neglect of sundry enumerated articles of foreign manufactures, such as all sorts of men's hats, wove patterns for breeches and vests, and many other articles therein mentioned, were the best means to extricate ourselves out of those difficulties, and in said report did engage with, and promise each other, that after the first day of March last, they would not purchase, introduce or bring into this colony for sale, or for the use of their own families, any of the aforesaid articles, such as men's hats, wove patterns, &c., and that they would discountenance in a lawful and decent manner, such as should attempt to bring in any of said articles as per report under the hands of the said Joshua Elderkin and the other committee as on file and recorded in the records of this town, which report was at said adjourned meeting by said town accepted and passed into a vote of this town *Nemine Contra Dicente*, the said Joshua Elderkin being present, and entered on the records of this town accordingly; and whereas the said Joshua Elderkin not regarding the trust reposed in him by this town, and his own most solemn engagements in said report signed with his own hand, and voted by this town as aforesaid, and regarding the public interests of this town and Country, hath in violation of his said engagements since the first day of March last, brought into this town and exposed to sale sundry of the aforesaid enumerated prohibited articles of foreign manufacture, particularly men's felt hats and wove patterns for breeches

and vests, contrary to the public honor and interests of this town and Country, to the aforesaid vote and his own most solemn engagements aforesaid. This town having duly inquired into and considered all the matters aforesaid and notified the said Joshua Elderkin thereof do thereupon vote that the aforesaid doings of the said Joshua Elderkin in importing said felt hats, worsted patterns, &c., of foreign manufacture, are contrary to and a breach of that trust and confidence that this town have from time to time placed in the said Joshua Elderkin, and that they have a just right to from all its inhabitants, and contrary to his solemn engagements in said report and vote aforesaid expressed, and therefore do and shall for the future, look upon the said Joshua Elderkin as a person not fit to sustain any office of honor or profit in this town, until he properly manifests his repentance of his aforesaid conduct."

This prolix document, as it was considered in town meeting, adopted and entered on the town records, had a good deal of meaning to it, notwithstanding its moderate tone, and Dr. Elderkin we judge did not rest very easy under it. The subject was considered at several subsequent meetings at which Dr. Elderkin was present, and made explanations if not acknowledgments. The matter was finally disposed of at a town meeting Dec. 9, 1774, as follows:

"Voted that what Dr. Elderkin has now and formerly said in this and former meetings is a compliance with the report of a Committee made to this town at their meeting held March 15, 1770, and thereupon voted that the vote passed by this town at their meeting held by adjournment, June 27, 1768, respecting Dr. Elderkin, be and the same is hereby repealed and made null and void."

We are not able to say how culpable Dr. Elderkin was in the matter of selling the hats and vest patterns, yet it appears to have been clearly against the regulations adopted and was so considered by the people of the town, who evidently felt quite indignant toward the Doctor. The manner in which he was treated at the outset undoubtedly roused his feelings and it was a good while before he would make any explanations or take any steps towards a reconciliation. But as matters between the colonies and mother country grew more serious and the danger of a collision imminent, feelings of discord were banished and all true patriots felt the necessity of acting harmoniously. Dr. Elderkin's services were needed. He was an educated man, of business experience and energy, and a reconciliation was effected between him and the people of the town as we have seen. We have understood there were palliating circumstances in regard to his sales, and it has been thought the people were somewhat hasty in their action; but we have nothing definite in regard to the matter except what we find in the records. The difficulty was happily settled, and from that time Dr. Elderkin fully shared the confidence of his fellow citizens. He was like his brother, ardently patriotic, and rendered most important serv-

ice during the most trying period of the Revolutionary war. In July, 1776 he was appointed by the Assembly on a committee to buy tow cloth for tents for the army. In the same year he was appointed with others to procure supplies and refreshments for the soldiers. At one time an order of £1000 was drawn in his favor for the purchase of clothing. His name is often mentioned in the doings of the Assembly and Council of Safety, as furnishing supplies and providing and contracting for various articles necessary for the Army. A descendant says: "He entered heart and soul into the war of the Revolution, was early appointed a commissary in the army, and to help forward the cause pledged his all for debts contracted in its service. Government paid in Continental money, which at the close of the war greatly depreciating in value, his own property was taken to pay these debts, and that not being sufficient, he was thrown into Windham jail, and there spent many months. He and his wife in their last days found a home with their youngest daughter in Canterbury (Westminster Society) where they died and were buried in the burying ground at that place. He was truly in every sense a good man." His career was a somewhat checkered one, and he experienced more of the ups and downs of life than is usual. He was evidently a man of talent and versatility. He was somewhat impulsive, we judge, but really a man of good intentions and, earnest purposes. His services and sacrifices for his country in its most trying hour, should lead us to pardon his faults and with gratitude remember his virtues.

DR. ELDERKIN lived "down town" as we are told, in a house now gone, nearly opposite Giles Taintor's residence, just north of Jairus Smith's at or near where Christopher Yergason now lives.

DR. JOSHUA ELDERKIN m. Rachel Wetmore, July 31, 1749; he d. at Canterbury, 1801, aged 80 years. His death is recorded without date in the *Windham Herald*, Feb. 13, 1801. The death of his wife not found. Besides two who died in infancy he had the following chil.: *Hannah*, b. at Haddam, April 24, 1750. d. Aug. 17, 1750; (13) *Joshua Booth*, b. at Haddam, June 14, 1751; *Louisa Rachel*, b. at Windham, May 31, 1753, m. Samuel Badger. lived and died in Chelsea, Vt., leaving no children: *Susannah*, b. in Windham, Nov. 7, 1760. m. Roger Huntington, of Windham. had Huldah who m. Anson Johnson, of Plainfield, Eunice, who m. Geo. Wyllys Abbe, of Windham, Betsey, who m. Murray Johnson, of Plainfield afterwards of Brunswick, Me.. Harry, who married Clarissa Bibbins, had family and d. in Windham. and Joshua who lived in Windham and died unmarried; *Hannah Huntington*, b. Feb. 26, 1764, m. 1st Samuel Johnson, of Canterbury, had one child, Salome. who m. Artemus Osgood, of Pomfret. (Abington Society), m. 2d Alexander Gordon, of Canterbury, and by him had two children, Maria, who d. unm.. and Harriet, who m. Dea. Charles Lee, then of Willimantic, recently deceased at Norwich, as his 2d wife who now resides in

Norwich a widow, m. 3d Dea. Joshua Grosvenor, of Pomfret (Abington Society) where she d. July 8, 1834.

10. VINE ELDERKIN, the eldest son of Col. Jedediah, was born in Windham, Sept. 11, 1745. He graduated at Yale College 1766. He studied law, probably with his father, and having been admitted to practice, settled in Windham, where he attained considerable eminence as an advocate and counsellor. Subsequently he removed to the State of New York, and, as we are informed, settled on the Hudson, somewhere near West Point, where he had charge of an iron foundry. We have letters from several of his descendants and connections, and have inquired of some of the oldest residents in Windham, but we have been unable to learn definitely where Vine Elderkin lived after he left Windham, or the name of the place where he died. Any one furnishing us the information will much oblige.

VINE ELDERKIN, ESQ., m. Lydia White, dau. of Rev. Stephen, third minister of the first church in Windham, Nov. 23, 1767. She was b. in Windham, April 28, 1745. Her mother was Mary, dau. of Col. Thomas, and sister of Col. Eliphalet Dyer. In this branch of the family the Elderkin and Dyer blood mingles.

VINE ELDERKIN, ESQ., d. Aug. 5, 1800, aged 55. Lydia, his wife, d. in Windham, Oct. 2, 1818. Their children were: *Harriet*, b. Oct. 4, 1768, m. Dr. James Jackson, of Manlius, N. Y., had one dau. *Harriet*; (14); *Bela*, b. Feb. 3, 1770; *Mary Ann*, b. Dec. 18, 1771, m. 1st, Henry Clark, of Manlius, m. 2d, Dr. Jackson, who first married her sister; *Stephen White*, b. Sept. 12, 1773, m. Mary Powell, no chil.; *Julia*, b. Jan. 20, 1776, m. Timothy Staniford, had one child, James C., who resides in Windham. *Lucy*, b. Nov. 27, 1778, m. Joseph Strong, of Manlius, N. Y., and had family; *Charlotte*, b. March 23, 1781, m. Charles Moseley, of Manlius, had a family, d. at Ann Arbor, Mich.

11. BELA ELDERKIN, the second son of Col. Jedediah, was born in Windham, Dec. 10, 1751. He graduated at Yale College 1767, and was for a time, as we have been told, engaged in trade in Windham. Previous to this, however, and soon after the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, he was appointed Lieutenant of Marines on board the ship of war then owned by the State of Connecticut. What service, if any, he rendered in this capacity, we are unable to say. It was probably soon after his father purchased the mill privilege there that he removed to Willimantic, and lived in a dwelling now gone, known to the last generation as the "Howes House," which stood directly across the street from the old grist mill. Here he lived a number of years, and for a time kept tavern. It is probable, too, that he had charge of his father's business, including the mills in this part of the town. He was living here it seems by his father's will in 1792. Here, it is probable, most of his children were born. A few aged persons remember when he lived

in this village and kept tavern here. At what time he left Windham we have been unable to ascertain, but it was near the close of the last or the beginning of this century we judge. We are told that he first went to join his father-in-law, Col. Eleazer Fitch, who went from Windham some years before, and who had a large tract of land granted to him by the British Government near Lake Memphremagog. Of his history after leaving Windham we know little. Though a man of fine talents and education, he did not succeed in business very well, judging from what we have heard. We have seen a letter written by him dated Jan. 29, 1820. He was then 68 years old, and living at Cochection, Sullivan Co., N. Y., where he died. He was then engaged in the lumber business. He speaks of breaking his arm by slipping on the ice on the Delaware river. He speaks of his children, Henry and Bela, whom he wishes to hear from, and also his daughter Amie, who it seems was with him. The letter is an interesting one, showing a right state of feeling in regard to his family, and expressing thankfulness for blessings received.

BELA ELDERKIN was a large fine looking man, full six feet high and well proportioned. In fact the Windham Elderkins were a noble race of men physically. The wife of Bela Elderkin we judge was also a large person. Col. Fitch, her father, was the largest and finest looking man in Windham, being six feet four inches in height, and weighing over three hundred pounds. It is not to be wondered at that some of their descendants were of gigantic proportions.

BELA ELDERKIN m. Philena Fitch, dau. of Col. Eleazer, March 18, 1773; she d. Dec. 8, 1796; he d. at Cochection, Sullivan Co., N. Y., but the date not found. Their chil., were: *Jedediah*, b. Jan. 1, 1774, went into Maine and engaged in the lumber business, says a relative of the family; *Eleazer*, b. June 28, 1775, was commander of a vessel that sailed out of Providence for many years, sometime in the employ of the late Cyrus Butler and afterwards as owner. He m. 1st a Miss Sabin, of Providence, R. I., who d. leaving no chil., and he m. 2d a Miss Davis, a niece of the Late Cyrus Butler. They d. many years since in Providence, leaving one dau., who is married and now lives in New Bedford, Mass. He is spoken of as a fine man, who accumulated some property; *Thomas Mason Fitch*, b. Oct. 5, 1778, m. Polly Buck, of Windham, Aug. 27, 1797, had George, b. Nov. 14, 1797, she d. Sept. 13, 1799, aged 21; he d. at Windham, 1808. One informant says he was a hatter by trade; *Henry*, b. Aug. 2d, 1780. It is said he was in the British naval service in the war of 1812; *Bela*, b. Sept. 30, 1782, d. in Demerara, according to the *Windham Herald*, of Sept. 1801, though if such was the fact, it is singular that his father should not know about it in 1820; *George*, b. Nov. 2, 1784, was a nail cutter by trade, and was, we judge, rather a wild boy. He left Windham early, and we have no further accounts of him; (15) *Anthony Yeldat*, b. Dec. 9, 1786, *Amie*, b. Nov. 1789, m. a Mr. Pond, and lives, or recently did live in Franklin, Mass; *Mira*, b.

Jan. 19, 1793, married and was not long since, if not now, living in New Bedford, Mass.

12. ALFRED ELDERKIN, ESQ., youngest son of Col. Jedediah was b. Jan. 4, 1759. He partially fitted for college, intending to enter Yale, but a long illness which lamed him for life, prevented, and he remained at home aiding his father in superintending his farm and factories. He was the executor of his father's will, and was engaged in various kinds of business in the latter part of his life. We are told that he was for a time in the jewelry business with his neighbor Mr. Staniford. He was a tall and rather large man and of course is well remembered by many people in Windham. He m. Sarah Brown, dau. of Samuel and Sarah (Bishop) Brown, Jan. 27, 1779; she d. March 4, 1833; he d. Oct. 9, 1833. They lived in the red gambrel roofed house west of the Staniford tavern now owned by Mr. George Lathrop. Their chil. were: *Sally*, b. Aug. 8, 1779, m. James S. Campbell, of Cherry Valley where they have passed a married life of sixty-five years. At last accounts they were enjoying comfortable health, Mr. Campbell at the age of 92 and Mrs. Campbell at the age of 86. On the first of December last they celebrated the 65th anniversary of their marriage when six sons of the venerable couple were present. The chil. of James S. and Sally Campbell all born in Cherry Valley are: Alfred E., D. D., residence New York, Mary Ann, Cherry Valley, William W., L. L. D., Cherry Valley, George W., Cherry Valley, Samuel B., Castleton, N. Y., James Henry, New York, John Cannon, New York, Augustus, M. D., Gloversville, N. Y. All were living, as we understand in 1860. The family is a highly respected and talented one and Judge Wm. W. Campbell, has been on the Bench many years and has received the honorary degree of L.L.D.; *Fanny*, b. Nov. 21, 1781, m. 1st a Cuthbert, m. 2d a Baker, lived as we are informed in West Hartford, Ct, where she d. many years since, leaving no chil.; *Bishop*, b. Feb. 16, 1784, d. Oct. 16, 1791; *Lora*, b. Feb. 20, 1786, d. Jan, 1863 at Cherry Valley, aged about 77 unm.; *Judith*, b. Aug. 2, 1788, d. Jan. 1, 1811, aged 21, unm.

13. JOSHUA BOOTH ELDERKIN, lived down town, while he remained in Windham, and built the brick house which stands where the road turns toward the burying ground, now owned by Capt. Adam Larabee. It is said he kept tavern there during the Revolution and that the French officers boarded with him at the time some of them were stopping in Windham and Lebanon about 1780. At what time he left Windham we know not, but presume it was not far from the close of the last century. One account says he went to Chelsea, Vt., where he died and another says he went to Middlebury, Vt.

JOSHUA BOOTH ELDERKIN m. Lydia Denison dau. of Nathan, Oct. 16, 1769. Their chil. were; *Mary*, b. July 16, 1770, m. Daniel Perkins, lived in Chelsea, Vt.; *Lydia*, bap. Oct. 17, 1773, m. 1st Jabez Fitch who lived in Willimantic and Lebanon. She was

the mother of Eleazer D. Fitch, of Willimantic, of the late Mrs. Laban Chase, of Willimantic and of Col. E. S. Fitch of Mansfield. She m. 2d Azariah Balcum, of Mansfield, who afterwards lived in Willimantic where they both died; *Rachel Ann*, bap. Oct. 13, 1774; *Sarah Wales*, bap. Feb. 25, 1776; *Joshua Booth*, bap. Jan. 3, 1779, m. and lived at Middlebury thinks a descendant; *Louisa Rachel*, bap. Feb. 13, 1781; *Alathea*, bap. May 30, 1784, m. Jairus Littlefield, late of Willimantic deceased, had family, d. in Willimantic; *Nancy*, m. a Shurtliff, it is said, and lived in Montreal; *Lucretia*, m. it is said a Phelps and lived in New York City; *Lucius*, and *Lucia* were twins, the former it is said lived in Middlebury, Vt. The above record is imperfect and may not be strictly reliable as it is derived partly from tradition.

14. BELA ELDERKIN, son of Vine, b. in Windham, Feb. 3, 1770, m. Susan Bates, who was b. March 19, 1782; she d. 1826; he d. 1853. Our correspondent, his son, Dr. Vine Elderkin, does not state where he lived. But as he says he was b. in Genneseo, N. Y., we presume his father lived there. The children of Bela and Susan Elderkin, were: (16) *Vine*, b. Jan. 5, 1797; *Julia Staniford*, b. June 17, 1805, m. Hiram Kellogg, has family; *Zuba*, b. Oct. 10, 1807, m. 1st, John Fleming, m. 2d, Charles Herrington, m. 3d, David Campbell; *Clarissa M.*, b. Feb. 5, 1810, m. Philip Siverly and has family; *Phineas, B.*, b. Feb. 22, 1812 m. Maria Noble, has Lorena, Andrew, Edwin and Maria; *John Bela*, b. Oct. 13, 1814, m. Mary Williston, and had James, Samuel, Jane, Phebe, Oliver, John, Elizabeth, Garrot, Alzina and George; *Dyer White*, b. April 9, 1817, m 1st, Cornelia Walker, m. 2d, Lois King, and has Mary Jane, Sarah Francis, Emily, Caroline, Ellen, Amelia, Walker White, and by his 2d wife, Ward King, Ida Lois, Rhoda Cornelia and Flora Balinda. *Ira*, b. March 22, 1822, m. Phebe Ann Rockwell, and has a son Alfred and four daughters; *Stephen White*, b. Feb. 6, 1826.

15. ANTHONY Y. ELDERKIN, the 7th son of Bela Elderkin (No. 11) was born, as we suppose, in the village of Willimantic about 1785 or 1786. His mother dying when he was about 10 years old, he was placed in the family of Jabez Fitch, says a descendant of the latter, where he remained some years, probably until he left Windham. He went to Middlebury, Vt., at the age of 18, where he learned the wheelwright trade. In 1808 he removed to Potsdam, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., where he continued to reside until his death. He was a very large tall and fine-looking man, being 6 feet 7 inches high, well proportioned and weighed 320 pounds. He was highly esteemed in all the relations of life. Says a correspondent, he was a "good citizen and a kind father, a strong democrat, an Episcopalian and a mason." He m. at Middlebury, Vt., Parmela Fuller, dau. of Capt. Josiah, Jan. 20, 1807; he d. in 1831, aged 45; she d. at Lancaster, Wis., since 1860. Their chil. were: *Elmira L.*, b. at Middlebury, Vt., Nov. 7, 1807, m. Velorus Freeman, of Madrid, N. Y.; *Infant*, b. July 11, 1809, d. Aug. 28, 1809; (17) *Noble Strong*,

b. in Potsdam, N. Y., Aug. 28, 1810; *Mira*, b. Sept. 20, 1812, m. Herman B. Fisher about 1832, now resides in Lancaster, Grant Co., Wis.; (18) *Edward*, b. Jan. 5, 1815; *William*, b. Nov. 17, 1816, d. July 20, 1833; *Catherine*, b. Oct. 27, 1818, d. Aug. 5, 1819; *Martha*, b. July 19, 1822, m. Harrison H. Hyde, resides in Lancaster, Grant Co., Wis.; *Harriett*, b. Dec. 21, 1824, m. A. M. Sanford, now resides in Fayette, Iowa; *Horace Jackson*, b. Nov. 13, 1826, d. Oct. 3, 1827; *Infant*, b. Aug. 16, 1829, d. Oct. 21, 1829.

16. DR. VINE ELDERKIN, eldest son of Bela, (No. 14) and grandson of Vine (No. 10) was b. in Genneseo, N. Y., Jan. 5, 1797. He studied medicine under the tuition of Dr. James Jackson, of Manlius, N. Y., and completed his medical course at New Haven in 1821. In the spring of 1822 left Manlius and settled in Ashville Harmony, Chataqua Co., N. Y., where he was living in 1861, having had an extensive and successful practice for about forty years. He m. Nancy Norton, dau. of Samuel of Berlin, Ct. in 1826 and has had chil: *Harriet*; *Hiram*; *Mary*; *Jane*; *Maria*; and *Henry*.

17. HON. NOBLE S. ELDERKIN, eldest son of Anthony Y., was born at Potsdam, N. Y., where he received such educational advantages as the common school and academy of his native town afforded. For several years he taught school winters and worked in his father's wheelwright shop summers. A correspondent long acquainted with his family thus writes of him: "He was elected a constable of Potsdam, next appointed a deputy sheriff of the County (St. Lawrence), acting as such for several years, until in 1843 he was elected high sheriff of the county for three years. He was afterwards elected a member of the Assembly of the State of New York, from St. Lawrence Co., in each of the years 1849, 1850 and 1851. In 1850 he was Speaker of the House of Assembly. He has also been a friend of our State militia and has filled with credit all the important grade of military offices in the same up to and including the rank of Brigadier General." He is six feet high, weighs 200 lbs, and is, as he once informed us, a Silas Wright democrat. He is a highly esteemed and influential citizen of his town, county and state.

HON NOBLE S. ELDERKIN, m. 1st Eliza Holden, dau. of Capt. Jonas, of Potsdam, N. Y., Dec. 29, 1835; she d. April 8, 1850 — a most excellent lady; he m. 2d Mrs. Fannie (Clark) Putnam, wid. of Rev. A. K. Putnam, late rector of Trinity church, Potsdam, formerly rector of the church at Bellows Falls, Vt. Chil. by 1st wife: (19) *William Anthony*, b. May 15, 1839; *Sarah Louisa*, b. Dec. 17, 1841, d. April 5, 1847; *Frances Eliza*, b. Aug. 6, 1844; *Noble Edward*, b. Sept. 7, 1847, d. April 30, 1848; *Emma L.*, b. Jan. 21, 1850, d. April 17, 1850. Chil. by 2d wife: *Noble Strong, Jr.*, b. July 24, 185?.

18. COL. EDWARD ELDERKIN, studied law with Hon. John Fine, the first judge of St. Lawrence Co., and some years since removed

to Elkhorn, Walworth Co., Wis., where he resides, a lawyer and farmer. He m. Mary M. Beardsley, of Delaware Co., N. Y., about 1843, and has chil.: *Emma Pamela*, b. 1844; *Addie*, b. 1846; *Edward Anthony*, b. 1848; *Noble Henry*, b. 1850; *Frank Brown*, b. 1852; *Susie Gardner*, b. 1854; *Hattie*, b. 1856.

19. MAJOR WILLIAM ANTHONY ELDERKIN, entered West Point, June 1, 1856, in his 18th year and remained there about five years, graduating in May, 1861, in the 1st U. S. Artillery. He was ordered directly from West Point to Washington by Gen. Scott, and placed in Rickett's Battery, as 2d Lieut., and was with his battery at the first Battle of Bull Run. In that action Capt. Ricketts was wounded and taken prisoner and the 1st Lieut. killed. Lieuts. Elderkin and Kirby continued the fight until ordered to retire. The battery suffered severely in loss of men and horses. Young Elderkin was in the saddle 28 hours, and escaped unhurt, though he had some narrow escapes. He afterwards went into Hall's Battery, and down the Potomac with Gen. Sickles, was taken sick and remained in Washington four months. In consequence of his health he was sent to West Point as Assistant Professor of mathematics where he remained two and a half years. In the fall of 1863 was ordered to Washington in the Subsistence Department and promoted to Captain. He was ordered to City Point to Gen. Grant's Department, remained there but a short time, was ordered back to Washington and from there to Louisville, Ky., where he remained about a year acting as Commissary of Subsistence for Gen. Thomas. From Louisville was ordered to Mobile, Ala., where he is now stationed. He is major by brevet. He has good business talents, is an excellent mathematician and a promising young officer. He m. Fannie Gurley, dau. of Rev. R. R. Gurley, D. D. of Washington in June, 1861, and had *Annie McNair*, b. May 1, 1862; and *Evelyn Kingsbury*, b. about 1864.

We thus complete our imperfect record of the Windham Elderkins. Should life be spared it is the intention of the compiler to publish the above at some future time either in book or pamphlet form and in that case would be glad to receive any corrections and additions from persons interested. The time to make these corrections is when the subject is fresh in mind.

We have been much interested in tracing this family. It was of good stock and unlike some of our early families has not deteriorated. Descendants in both the male and female line are highly respectable and many talented men are found among them. Some of the characteristics of the family are patriotism, ambition, energy, capacity for public business, a love of military life, frankness, liberality and public spirit.

THE END





